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X-Sender: news@humanitarian.net (Unverified)
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Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2000 15:48:50 -0500
To: governors.staff.list@humanitarian.net
From: Humanitarian Resource Institute <news@humanitarian.net>
Subject: Hazardous Chemical Accidents Since 1/1/2000
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February 17, 2000

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Year 2000 Technology & Development Challenges Report
<http://www.humanitarian.net/challenges.html>

The escalation of chemical emergencies since January 1, 2000 illustrates the need for ongoing community & family preparedness initiatives.

As an international reference point, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Chemical Incidents Reports Center has posted 102 chemical accident reports to date:

102. 2/15/2000 - 10:45 AM - Baxter, TN Propane Rail Tank Cars Overturn in Middle of Town; Two Schools, Residents Evacuated
101. 2/14, 2000 - Santee, CA Explosion at Plastics Manufacturer Injures Three
100. 2/12/ 2000 - Hong Kong, China, Peoples Republic of Three Die in Explosion at Hong Kong Construction Site
99. 2/11, 2000 - 10:00 PM - North Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada Canadian Town Blockaded as Chemical Spill Closes Highway
98. 2/11/2000 - Zhangshu City, China, Peoples Republic of Six Dead, Two Injured in Gas Station Explosion
97. 2/11/2000 - North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Large Canola Oil Spill Threatens Birds in Burrard Inlet, British Columbia; Spill May Be 50 Tons
96. 2/10/2000 - 11:03 PM - Barnhart, MO Natural Gas Company Employee Succumbs to Injuries From Home Explosion
95. 2/9, 2000 - 3:00 PM - Fargo, ND Welder Seriously Injured When 55-Gallon Drum Explodes
94. 2/9/2000 - 1:00 PM - Cambridge, MA Two Grad Students Injured in Lab Explosion at MIT
93. 2/9, 2000 - Changchun, China, Peoples Republic of Five Miners Killed in Gas Explosion; Rescuers HoldOut Little Hope for 11 Other Missing Miners
92. 2/8/2000 - 5:00 PM - Toronto, Ontario, Canada 13-Hour Chemical Cleanup Closes Major Commuter Route
91. 2/8/2000 - 4:00 PM - Sudbury, Ontario, Canada Police, Firefighters Fight Stubborn Rail Car Hazardous Materials Fire; Most of Downtown Sealed Off
90. 2/8/2000 - 3:24 AM - Cliffside Park, NJ Dozens of Homes and Businesses Evacuated After Ruptured GasMain Causes Explosion, Underground Fire
89. 2/7/2000 - Toulon, France Tunnel Fire in southern France Injures 17
88. 2/6/2000 - 2:00 PM - Springfield, VT Spill at Electroplating Company Causes Evacuation, Closure of Main Street
87. 2/6/2000 - 10:30 AM - Montville, CT Oil Truck Spills Load, Highway Closed
86. 2/4/2000 - Belem, Brazil Barge with Nearly 500,000 Gallons of Oil Sinks in northern Brazil

85. 2/4/2000 - 8:00 PM - Minneapolis, MN Hydrochloric Acid Spill at Printing Plant, Building Evacuated; 3-Alarm Haz Mat Response Declared

84. 2/4/2000 - 10:00 AM - Sydney, Australia Fire Burns at Qenos Chemical Plant; Ethylene Producer Just Cooling and Protecting >From Exposures

83. 2/3/2000 - 11:00 AM - Washington, DC Hazardous Materials Scare Prompts Police To Close Part of U.S. Capitol

82. 2/2/2000 - Buffalo, NY More Than 50 Sickened From Carbon Monoxide Leak at Bowling Alley

81. 2/2/2000 - Brownsville, TX Toxic Spill Prompts Warning That Fish May be Unsafe to Eat

80. 2/1/2000 - 10:45 AM - Bethel, NC Large Evacuation Area Reduced as Train Crews Begin Rebuilding Tracks

79. 2/1/2000 - 11:04 AM - Salt Lake City, UT Two Unrelated Chemical Spills Prompt Evacuations, Road Closures

78. 2/31/2000: - Baia Mare, Romania Hungary Blames Romania for Major Cyanide Spill; Municipal Water Systems Shut, Wildlife Killed

77. 1/30/2000 - Desaguadero River, Bolivia Oil Spill in Andean River Killing Wildlife, Harming Indian Farmers

76. 1/30/2000 - 10:40 PM - Fuji, Japan Acrylic Acid Spill Closes Japanese Expressway

75. 1/29/2000 - 7:05 PM - Blue Island, IL Fire at Refinery is Second Accident Since Christmas Eve Explosion

74. 1/29/2000 - 5:30 PM - Flora Vista, NM Gasoline Storage Tank Explodes; Kills One Teen, Injures Another

73. 1/28/2000 - 7:15 PM - Lowell, MA Almost 12,000 Gallons of Gasoline Spilled When Tanker Overturms On Highway

72. 1/28/2000: - 1:23 PM - Battle Creek, MI Teacher, Four Students Seriously Injured During Classroom Chemistry Experiment; 11 Others Hurt

71. 1/27/2000: 5:15 AM - Sowa, Japan Chemical Factory Worker Killed, Another Injured When Acid Drum Explodes

70. 1/27/2000: - Winchester, KY 24-inch Crude Oil Pipeline Ruptures in Kentucky; Cleanup Could Take Days or Weeks

69. 1/26/2000 - Reno, NV Investigators Seek Clues Into Dumping of Several Gallons of Mercury

68. 1/25/2000: - 12:00 PM - Saugus, MA Natural Gas Pipeline Fire Started by Downed Electrical Line

67. 1/25/2000: - Minden, LA Explosion at Ammunition Plant Badly Burns Employee

66. 1/24/2000: - 5:30 PM - East Helena, MT Fire at Lead Smelter Declared Out; Shelter-in-Place Order Lifted

65. 1/24/2000 - 7:00 PM - Lock heath, United Kingdom Chemical Spill Threatens River and Spurs Major Alert

64. 1/24/2000 - Stony Creek, Ontario, Canada Fire, Explosion at Lamination Plant Causes Evacuations of Homes, Businesses

63. 1/23/2000: Masury, OH Propane Tanks Explode at Industrial Complex, Worker Seriously Injured; Damage Up to \$500,000

62. 1/23/2000: - 5:00 PM - Stroudsburg, PA Gas Leak Suspected Cause of Explosion That Extensively Damages Store, Showers Street with Debris

61. 1/23/2000 - 11:30 AM - Cambridge, MA More Than 1,300 Harvard University Students Evacuated Due to Carbon Monoxide Fumes

60. 1/23/2000 - Moscow, Russia Oxygen Tanks at Construction Site Explode, Two Injured

59. 1/23/2000 - Platte City, MO Ten Killed in Fiery 24-Vehicle Pileup North of Kansas City; Fire Fueled by Hydrochloric Acid Leak

58. 1/22/2000: - 7:00 PM - Long Beach, MS Chemical Drums Explode at Hot Tub, Spa Manufacturer; Factory Destroyed

57. 1/22/2000 - 3:00 PM - Flemington, NJ Fire Chief and Patrolman Injured As Building Explodes

56. 1/22/2000 - 3:00 AM - Claremont, CA Car Strikes Fuel Tanker, One Killed - Interstate Closed

55. 1/21/2000 - Campeche Bay, Mexico Fire at Major Mexican Oil Field, Sixth Largest in World, But Production Not Affected

54. 1/21/2000 - 3:45 AM - Flint, MI Propane Rail Tank Car Fire Burns Out; Major Explosion Averted

53. 1/21/2000 - 1:00 AM - Fountain Valley, CA Fast-moving Fire in Plastics Factory Apparently Started by Chemical Reaction

52. 1/21/2000 - Los Alamos, NM Hundreds of Gallons of Contaminated Water Spills from DoE Lab

51. 1/21/2000 - 3:45 AM - Flint, MI Propane Rail Tank Car Burning; 1-mile Area Evacuated, 500,000 Gallons of Fuel Moved Out of Danger

50. 1/21/2000 - Breckenridge, MN Spontaneous Combustion from Chemical Reaction Damages Movie Theater

49. 1/20/2000 - Clermont-Ferrand, France French Firefighters Extinguish Huge Blaze at Tire Factory

48. 1/19/2000 - 2:30 PM - Temple, TX Texas Plastics Plant Destroyed; Four Workers Injured

47. 1/19/2000 - Garrison, ND Plumber Working in Hospital Injured When Welding Tank Explodes

46. 1/19/2000 - Darien, WI More than 300 Evacuated After Natural Gas Leak

45. 1/18/2000 - 1:30 PM - Chikkalsandra, India Blast at Indian Movie Studio Kills Three

44. 1/18/2000 - 7:20 AM - Sulphur, LA Five Burned by Flash Fire at Gas Well

43. 1/18/2000 - Shreveport, LA Two Injured, One Critically, After Chemical Explosion at Refinery

42. 1/17/2000 - 8:30 AM - St. Paul, MN Dozen People Treated for Exposure to Industrial Liquid

41. 1/16/2000 - 8:50 PM - Kiel, WI Several Hundred Evacuated After Train Derails, Leaks Methanol

40. 1/16/2000 - Springfield, MO Man Killed, Two Auto Businesses Destroyed in Explosion

39. 1/15/2000 - 5:30 PM - Kansas City, KS Federal Investigators Think Fireworks, Chemicals Caused Fatal Blast

38. 1/15/2000 - Balatonfuzfo, Hungary Explosion Destroys Hungarian Gunpowder Plant, One Dies

37. 1/14/2000 - 9:00 AM - Durham, NH Tractor-Trailer Overturns, but Sodium Hydroxide Cargo Remains Contained

36. 1/14/2000 - Albany, NY State Workers Sent Home Following Chemical Spill

35. 1/14/2000 - Dearborn, MI Spectacular, not Destructive Fire; Fifth Recent Incident at Dearborn Company

34. 1/13/2000: - La Guaira, Venezuela Mudslides Cause Toxic Chemical Spill; Evacuations Ordered as International Cleanup Effort Starts

33. 1/13/2000: - Lynn, MA Natural Gas Explosion at Potato Chip Factory Forces Evacuations

32. 1/13/2000: - 10:00 PM - York, United Kingdom Forty-foot Fireball in Residential Street After Natural Gas Explosion

31. 1/13/2000: - Bayport, TX Chemical Reaction at Plant Prompts Evacuation, Road Closure

30. 1/13/2000: 10:45 AM - Tokyo, Japan Sodium Hydroxide Leaks at Japanese Chemical Plant

29. 1/12/2000 - Govandi, India Four Killed As Balloon Seller's Gas Cylinder Explodes; 27 Injured. Official Response Criticized

28. 1/12/2000 - 12:00 PM - Niles, IL Seven Workers Hurt in Blast at Metal Recycling Company; Four Workers Critically Burned

27. 1/12/2000 - 10:00 AM - Grand Chute, WI 30 Sent to Hospital When Ammonia Line Breaks at Food Plant

26. 1/12/2000 - 9:00 AM - Akron, OH Evacuation Ends As Butadiene Spill Contained at Chemical Plant

25. 1/12/2000 - 6:55 AM - Canton Township, MI Ammonia Line Leaks as Explosion and Fire Follow at Food Plant; Two Injured

24. 1/11/2000 - 7:30 PM - Rangely, CO Natural Gas Line Explosion Forces Closure of State Highway

23. 1/11/2000 - 2:40 PM - Compton, CA Explosion, Fire at Food Company Injures four

22. 1/11/2000 - 6:45 AM - Mosier, OR Interstate 84 Closed After Wreck Causes Spill of Acid and Chlorine

21. 1/10/2000 - 10:00 PM - London, United Kingdom Gas Explosion in London Store Injures Three

20. 1/10/2000 - 9:30 AM - Richmond County, GA Non-Toxic Liquid Glass Spilled After Tanker Truck Overturns

19. 1/10/2000 - Mantova, Italy Gas Explosion Collapses Two-Story Building in Italy, Four Killed

18. 1/8/2000 - 1:00 PM - Cincinnati, OH Much of 365,000 Gallons of Liquid

Nitrogen Released into Ohio River

17. 1/8/2000 - 9:20 AM - Ventura, CA Man Killed, Two Injured at Oil Tool Plant Explosion
16. 1/8/2000 - Buffalo, NY Three Homes Catch Fire After Gas Truck Pumps Load into a Kerosene Tank;
15. 1/8/2000 - Wrightstown, WI Freight Train Strikes Truck Carrying Propane, Driver Killed, Residents Evacuated
14. 1/7/2000 - 5:30 AM - Dearborn, MI Another Accident at Ford Rouge Facility (explosion, fire)
13. 1/7/2000 - Portland, ME High School Evacuated When Unstable Chemicals Discovered in Classroom Lab
12. 1/7/2000 - Anderson, IN Indiana's White River Again Contaminated, This Time by "Mysterious Foam"
11. 1/6/2000 - 1:45 PM - Pasadena, TX, 2,800 Students, Faculty Evacuated as Construction Crew Hits Natural Gas Line
10. 1/6/2000 - 11:30 AM - Amherst, NY Cleaning Solvent Spill at Hotel Creates Chlorine Gas, Three Sent to Hospital
9. 1/6/2000 - 9:20 AM - Naples, FL Gasket Failure Causes Chlorine Leak at Water Plant
8. 1/6/2000 - 9:10 AM - Corby, United Kingdom Forty Factory Workers Sent to Hospital When Cleaning Fluids Mistakenly Mixed
7. 1/6/2000 - Point Comfort, TX Caustic Soda Spills from Pipeline into Gulf of Mexico
6. 1/5/2000 - 3:00 PM - Columbus, OH Hundreds Evacuate VA Medical Clinic, Seven Taken to Hospital Due to Carbon Monoxide Leak
5. 1/5/2000 - Davey, FL Anhydrous Ammonia Leak at Ice Plant; Nearby Resident Dies, Eight Workers Exposed
4. 1/5/2000 - Upper Darby, PA Fire Destroys Chemical Plant; Firefighters Unsure of Chemicals Involved
3. 1/2/2000 - 9:00 AM - Diamond Springs, CA Thermostat Apparently Malfunctions at Gold-Plating Facility; Fire, Evacuation Result
2. 1/2/2000 - White Hall, AR, Worker Suffers Serious Burns from White Phosphorus Handling Accident at Army
1. 1/1/2000 - Umatilla, OR - Trace Amount of Nerve Gas Discovered Leaking from Army Weapons

To access a copy of the "Preparedness Guide for Chemical Emergencies," produced by the National Disaster Education Coalition, American Red Cross, FEMA, IAEM, IBHS, NFPA, NWS, USDA/CSREES, and USGS, visit:
<http://www.humanitarian.net/chemicalemergencies.html>